

Weekly Column for December 28, 2006

Amazingly, the New Year is upon us. Hopefully each and every one of you has enjoyed your holiday season. Everything felt a little quick this year, I think much of that had to do with the warmer weather; it doesn't feel like winter yet. No complaints though from me, or the snow removal budget for that matter.

As we head into the New Year, I am filled with excitement to see what 2007 holds for the City of Troy. It is my belief that this year you will begin to see development in Troy that has not occurred for the past 20 years or so. Some of the projects you are already aware of, such as The Conservatory in downtown, or the Golden Fox restaurant a few blocks away. Other areas of development are still in the late planning stages, but it is my belief you will begin to see major signs of progress by the time summer rolls around.

Inside of City Hall, we are doing our part to help move different projects along, but also do our part in revitalizing Troy. As has been mentioned here during the course of the past several months, federal housing programs are moving full steam ahead on the third floor. Already we have awarded several grants for first-time homebuyers, with many more to come. Our Home Code Compliance Grant is achieving wonderful things in homes around the City, and will complete more projects in 2007 than ever before.

And perhaps most exciting, our HOME investment program is in the process of acquiring RFP's to build ten brand-new homes along Project Road next year. This is NOT public housing. These are houses that will be on the tax rolls, and sold to low-to-moderate income families looking for a home. It is a wonderful program that will achieve many results, not least among them strengthening neighborhoods, moving people out of public housing, and improving our housing stock. Look for updates on this project in the beginning of next year.

While we work on the projects that will benefit the long-range health of Troy, I want to issue a promise to each and every resident and business in Troy. We will continue to do what I think the City has improved exponentially on in the past few years. The streets will be cleaned each and every day. The police will work to keep Troy the safest City in the Capital District. And we will follow up on all issues that pertain to your quality of life.

Happy New Year! Please have a safe weekend.

Harry J Tutunjian  
Mayor of Troy